

AK Prince William Sound Salmon Drift Gillnet Fishery

Fishing gear type: Gillnet

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: The total annual mortality and serious injury of harbor porpoise (Gulf of Alaska [GOA] stock) and Steller sea lion (Western U.S. stock) in this fishery is greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stocks' Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a⁽¹⁾ indicates those stocks driving the fishery's classification): Dall's porpoise, AK; Harbor porpoise, GOA⁽¹⁾; Harbor seal, GOA; Northern fur seal, North Pacific; Pacific white-sided dolphin, Central North Pacific; Sea otter, AK; Steller sea lion, Western U.S.⁽¹⁾

Estimated number of current participants: 537

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: None.

Year added to the LOF: 1996

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was categorized as Category II based on observer data that showed the level of harbor porpoise (GOA) mortality and serious injury was 20 animals/year, or 8.1% of PBR (PBR=247), and serious injury and mortality of Steller sea lions (Western U.S.) was 14.5 animals/year, or 6.2% of PBR (PBR=234).

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 509

Past names, if any: None.

Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses drift gillnet gear with soak times of 15 minutes to 3 hours. The gear is set both during the day and night, with 10-14 sets per day.

Target species: Salmon.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: This fishery operates from mid-May to the end of September in the Prince William Sound Fisheries Management Area, the Copper River, and the Bering Sea. The Prince William Sound Fisheries Management Area consists of 11 districts with six hatcheries contributing to the salmon fisheries.

Levels of observer coverage each year[†]: Observer coverage is calculated by the percentage of estimated sets observed. Observer coverage was 4% and 5% in 1990 and 1991, respectively. The fishery was not observed from 1992-2005.

Management and regulations: This fishery is managed by the AK Department of Fish and Game as a limited entry fishery with gear restrictions on the mesh and net size, and area closures.

*The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

[†] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).

History of Changes on the LOF

2009 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 541 to 537.

2007 LOF: NMFS corrected a typographical error in the 2006 LOF where sea otters (AK) were incorrectly removed from the list of species/stocks killed/injured in Table 1, by adding this stock back into the Table.

2006 LOF: Added a superscript “1” in Table 1 after harbor porpoise (GOA) and Steller sea lion (Western U.S.), indicating that takes of these stocks are driving the classification of the fishery.

2000 LOF:

- Sea otter (AK) added to list of species /stock incidentally killed/injured in this fishery because of reported entanglements.
- Estimated number of participants updated from 509 to 541.

1999 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 518 to 509.

1998 LOF:

- The stock of harbor porpoise on the list of species killed/injured in this fishery was changed from “AK” to “GOA.”
- Estimated number of participants updated from 509 to 518.